

I. Board Objectives

The Boards of Control, as Trustees of the Teachers' Retirement System and Employees' Retirement System (Systems), have full power, through each System's secretary-treasurer, to invest and reinvest System funds in accordance with the Prudent Man Rule: "with the care, skill, prudence, and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing that a prudent man acting in a like capacity and familiar with such matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of a like character and with like aims." Other funds currently and hereafter under the management of the Systems will be governed by this Investment Policy Statement within each System's limitations and/or by other applicable legislated restrictions.

It is the objective of the Boards that funds be invested in such a manner as to maximize the total return of each System within prudent risk parameters. Also, the Systems recognize that a stronger Alabama equates to a stronger Retirement System, and as such, investments in Alabama businesses are encouraged to the extent the investment meets the criteria delineated by this policy statement.

The long term investment performance expectations of the Systems are to achieve a return on marketable securities in excess of the actuarial investment assumption and to exceed the rate of inflation (as measured by the CPI) by 3% through investments in a broadly diversified portfolio. The performance evaluation of each System will be submitted to the respective Board on a semi-annual basis.

II. Asset Allocation

The most important aspect of any investment strategy is the decision regarding allocation of investments among the various asset classes. The purpose of formulating asset allocation guidelines is to maximize investment returns within the standards of prudence established for the whole portfolio. Accordingly, the asset allocation decisions will be predicated on the following factors:

1. The actuarial projected liability stream of benefits and their cost,
2. The perception of the prospective risks and returns of eligible asset classes, and
3. Judgments regarding future economic and financial conditions.

The maximum permissible allocation of assets in the Systems to each eligible asset class is expressed below:

A. Domestic Fixed Income

The domestic fixed income portfolio of each System may consist of any rated or non-rated debt security including, but not limited to, the following: U.S. Treasury issues, agency issues, mortgage-backed securities, corporate bonds, and privately placed debt securities. This area of investments may not exceed 50% of the market value of the aggregate portfolio of each System.

B. International Fixed Income

The international fixed income asset class may be used to provide diversification for each System and may consist of U.S. dollar denominated or foreign currency denominated fixed income obligations of sovereign countries with a rating of at least A by one of the principal rating agencies at the time of purchase or acquisition, except that up to 2 percent of the market value of each System's total portfolio may be invested in the obligations of sovereign countries with a rating of BBB or BAA by one of such agencies at the time of purchase. The Systems may hedge against the possible adverse effects of currency fluctuations on each System's portfolio of international fixed income obligations when it is considered appropriate. The market value of this asset may not exceed 10% of the market value of each System's total portfolio.

C. Domestic Equity

The domestic equity portfolio of each System may consist of both actively and passively managed equity securities. Also, covered call options may be utilized in order to add incremental value to each System's equity portfolio and may be written and repurchased as market conditions warrant. The asset class may not exceed 65% of the market value of each System's aggregate portfolio.

D. International Equity

The international equity asset class may be used to provide diversification for the Systems and may consist of both actively and passively managed international equity securities. In order to be eligible for purchase by the Systems, an international equity security must be issued by a company incorporated in a country whose debt securities are eligible for investment under Section B above, and the market value of the aggregate outstanding equity of the issuing company must be at least \$100 million. Furthermore, each System may not purchase or hold more than 5 percent of any class of the outstanding stock of a company. The Systems may hedge against the possible adverse effects of currency fluctuations on each System's portfolio of international equity securities when it is considered appropriate. The aggregate market value of international equities may not exceed 25% of the aggregate market value of each System's total portfolio.

E. Real Estate

The real estate portfolio of each System may consist of office, retail, industrial, commercial, and residential housing projects. The suggested range may not exceed 15% of the book value of each System's aggregate portfolio.

F. Alternative Investments

Alternative investments may consist of, but are not limited to, mezzanine financing, LBO's, venture capital, limited partnerships, futures, commodities, and derivative investments. The asset class may not exceed 10% of the book value of each System's aggregate portfolio.

G. Short-term Investments

Short-term investments may consist of money allocated to commercial paper, rated at least A-2 and/or P-2, repurchase agreements, short-term U.S. Treasury securities and other money market investments. The primary objective of short-term investments is to provide highly liquid, low risk methods of return on funds, which have not been committed to the other aforementioned asset classes. The asset class may not exceed 20% of the market value of each System's aggregate portfolio.

Asset allocation is a dynamic process, and as such, the allocation decision should be revisited as market conditions change. In order to recognize this dynamism, the allocation targets within the recommended ranges of each asset class for the prospective quarter should be included in the quarterly strategy report.

III. Procedures

1. The investment advisor will work with the staff to develop a quarterly strategy for investments, which will be disseminated to the Boards, as it is prepared each quarter.
2. The Investment Committee of each System shall approve all investments made within the prescribed investment policy. These Investment Committees, in their approval, are considered to be signing for the respective Board of Control. If any purchase or sale is questioned by a member of the respective Investment Committee as to whether it is within given Board policy, the Board shall decide and no purchase or sale shall take place until all parties are in clear agreement that said action is or is not covered by policy.
3. Each week the secretary-treasurer of each System will send to the investment advisor the list of actual activities for written confirmation, which will then be forwarded to the respective System's Board of Control members upon receipt.
4. The staff members of the investment advisor will meet at least quarterly with members of the RSA staff and interested Boards of Control members to cover subjects of mutual interest.
5. All investment security purchases will be documented with an individual worksheet setting out the reason for the purchase, rating, market history and other general data pertinent to the decision making process.
6. An annual survey will be made of all fixed income investments held with emphasis on credit quality. A holding that has been downgraded in rating will be examined as to the reason for the downgrade and a determination should be made as to whether the security should remain in the portfolio.
7. The rules of the Securities Exchange Commission, the general policies of the Boards of Control, and the Alabama Ethics Commission shall govern the ethical conduct of employees. The RSA staff will provide the Alabama Ethics Commission with a quarterly report of all purchases and sales of any and all securities for personal accounts occurring within each reported quarter. The staff will abide by the Alabama Ethics Commission Advisory Opinion No. 673.